

**WENHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 10, 2006**

Attending:

Board Members: Jack Hauck, Dick Eddy, Mary Kelly, Luci Lynch, Barbara Morrell, Kit Richardson, and Jane Richardson

Associate Members: Roseann Brozenske, Marion D'Ambrosio, Jean Eddy, Nancy Spofford, and John Suminsby

COA Director/Van Supervisor Trudy Reid

Selectman Tom Tanous

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Chairman Hauck who commented that 2005 was a good year for the COA. He noted that during the year the Van made over 3,000 trips; 10 issues of the Newsletter were mailed; and the Director initiated new programs for Seniors such as SHINE and TRIAD. Many trips were enjoyed, such as the Pops, Cabbage Island, Foxwoods, the Ice Cream Social; and Tea House Social. The Coffee Hours were a great success. Over 180 Holiday Plants were distributed, a Friends Group was initiated to help fund COA programs, and the Senior Work Off Tax Abatement Program supported. He concluded that it was a great year, and 2006 should be even better!

Minutes of the Meeting of December 13, 2005, were accepted following the correction of the meeting date.

Committee Reports:

VAN The Director stated that she would like to wait until she has held the Van Supervisor's position for a full month before giving a statistical report (the form of which may be slightly different from those of John Marks). She noted however, that over the past few months there has been an average of 10 - 15 calls a day. Service to the Peabody/Rte 114 area has been discontinued due to increased requests for local service. Working with Jeff Hyde she will be monitoring the van's maintenance more closely than in the past. Once a week a pre-trip inspection will be conducted to make sure lights, wipers, etc are in working order, and once a month the Van will be left at the Highway garage for a check of fluids, filters, batteries, tires and brakes etc. They will also be tracking oil changes, when needed, as well as weekly gas consumption and mileage. The drivers will also be recording donations, daily. Trudy is reading over the policies and procedures for the Van to see if they need updating. Letters have been mailed to van riders to inform them of the change from John Marks to Trudy. With the help of the Chairman and the Town Accountant budget work is ongoing, and the preparation of the 2007 budget is being started. The next Newsletter will also cover more Van Info. .

TRIPS Jane Richardson Informed the Board that a trip to Foxwoods is in the works for February 27th. The cost of \$22 per person includes \$10 for food and \$15 for Keno. The coach will leave from behind Town Hall at 7 AM. She noted that she still has not received

word confirming the date for Pops, but expects to hear soon, 45 seats have been requested. Plans for the year include: Pops in May, Baseball (either in Lowell or Lynn) in July, the Ice Cream social in August, and the Nantucket Trip in September. The price of the Nantucket trip will depend on the number going, and will include transportation, breakfast, use of the shuttle bus to Town and the beach, and chits for dinners. If there is any interest, Jane is considering a Lighthouse tour around Boston Harbor with a box lunch in mid to late June. Jane also noted that the Tea originally scheduled at Enon Viillage on Jan. 18th (not a COA event) has been cancelled.

ARTWORK Kit Richardson reported the Art Committee has been very busy and after some difficult work, the hangers are in place. At the present time 4 paintings by Doris Suminsby and 4 by Kit are being displayed. Doris has contacted someone interested in exhibiting in March and April. It may be possible to display some art work from local schools in May. It was suggested that the Committee contact the Wenham Museum about showing some of the early Wenham photographs from their collection.

FRIENDS Mary Kelly reported that at the Friends meeting on January 6th their Bylaws were accepted. At present twelve people are willing to serve, and many good ideas are under consideration. They plan to start soliciting memberships soon, and will schedule an Annual meeting for sometime before July 1st.

PROGRAMS Dick Eddy noted he still needs the names of people who may be able to help with some of the programs under consideration. He distributed a list of the activities and the names of those willing to be responsible for each. Those activities with no assignee, were discussed and several suggestions made for people to contact. The Committee decided to drop the Story Hour option, as it was felt the Library pretty well covers this area. He also noted that the Handyman program was a bit "iffy", since there is a liability issue to be considered. The possibility of finding an area somewhere that seniors could bring small appliances for repair, was also discussed. The Committee would like to acquire a wall unit with shelves, for this building, to serve as a video and book swap storage area. It was suggested that this might be something the Friends could fund. Dick again requested anyone with other ideas to call him. The Committee is planning to hold a Kick-Off Event for the Friends Group sometime in May or June. This might take the form of a picnic, a kite day or even a crazy hat day! Volunteers will be needed for this project.

DIRECTOR *Budget - A preliminary budget is out for 2007. COA will be meeting with the FinCom on Jan. 31st to go over the figures. Trudy has been working with the Chairman to get a better understanding of the numbers. About \$2800 of the \$5000 budget has been spent already. The majority goes for copying and postage for the Newsletter. With many large items still to come, (such as Pops and the Victorian Tea), some decisions need to be made on how to proceed. *Coffee Hours - On January 7th, after meeting at the Rec Building for coffee, a good group proceeded to the Train Hobby Show at the Buker School., thanks to free tickets obtained by Dick Eddy. On January 21st Arthur Hatfield is scheduled to discuss Identity Theft. The Director is hoping to have the new editor of the Chronicle for February and is interested in learning what people would like to hear her discuss. *Grants - Before the next meeting, Trudy hopes to learn if the

request to the First Church for a grant of \$250 towards the start up of a COA web site, has been approved * *Merchant Discounts* - The Director has tried to contact several of the day spas in the area about discounts, with no success as yet. She has spoken to several businesses who commented no one was using the cards. The list of participating merchants was included in the December Newsletter. People should be encouraged to use and show their cards. * *Newsletter* - 585 copies of the Newsletter were mailed in December. The cost of the printing is a concern. Trudy plans to talk with the high school tech dept to see if they might be interested in doing the printing. She will keep us updated. * *Outreach* - To date Trudy has not had the opportunity to make any visits, however, Ditty Mulry is interested in working with her to get the program started. Any Board member wishing to make a visit to a senior, should please call Trudy. * *TRIAD* - The Sheriff's Department has dropped off 10 cell phones for use during a severe weather emergency. Four Counsel members have taken the phones home, where they will keep them charged. If a senior is concerned about losing phone service, they should contact Trudy, who will make arrangements for a phone to be delivered to them, and then returned when the emergency is over. On behalf of TRIAD she has also requested a special grant from the First Church for funding the Yellow Dot Program. TRIAD would like to offer this in the Spring. This program is similar to the File of Life, with medical information kept in the car, and a yellow dot placed on the rear window. It may be possible to kick off this program at the next Annual Town Meeting. TRIAD will discuss the logistics next month and work out an arrangement with the selectmen. "Senior Finders" (similar to Tot Finders), where a sticker is placed in a bedroom window to alert the Fire Department, is also being discussed. If TRIAD wants to offer this program a Tot Finder might be used in the meantime. A representative from the Sheriff's Department has asked all TRIAD Counsels to send out a survey for completion by Seniors. The Director was given the Board's OK to include this survey in the next Newsletter. Drop-off boxes will be placed in several locations (ie the Maples, Enon Village etc.) for collection of the results. * *Website* - Since John Grey has not been available, the Director has spoken with Bill Melville, who operates the community cable channel, and who is a teacher at the High School. He believes he may have a student who would be interested in building a website for us. Once on line, we should be able to link with the Town's site at no cost to the Counsel. Trudy will keep us updated.

Old Business:

The Chairman repeated his request for more volunteers to assist the Budget Committee. A brief discussion was held as to the need to fill the position of Treasurer. The Chairman agreed he would like to see a Treasurer, however, he felt the position should be redefined as someone to manage the Committee, maintain an overview of the budget expenses, and make suggestions to the Board. This will be further discussed at the next regular meeting

New Business:

Annual Report: The Chairman distributed copies of the COA Report to be printed in the Annual Town Report. Members were asked to read this over and contact him with any suggested changes or corrections.

Speaker's Policy: At the next meeting the Board will review the policy statement which stipulates that all speakers must be "non-profit". There was some feeling that this was very limiting. Members were asked to give the matter some thought and come prepared to vote in February.

Vice President:

The Chairman commented that he would like to see the Board fill the vacant Vice-President position, to provide for someone to serve when he is unavailable for any reason. After a brief discussion Dick Eddy was nominated, seconded and VOTED, to be Vice President. Dick agreed to serve, noting however, that he will be out of state during February, March and April.

The Meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

Next Meeting: **February 14, 2006**

Lucille Lynch

Secretary